



Citation

to accompany the award of the

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

to the

Combined Task Force Operation Northern Watch

The Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 22 September 1997 to 31 March 1998. During this period, the task force demonstrated sustained superior performance by successfully enforcing UN resolutions governing Iraq and prohibiting incursions by Iraqi forces into northern Iraq UN-designated No-Fly Zone airspace above the thirty-sixth parallel. The selfless dedication of coalition members ensured the resounding success of the longest No-Fly Zone enforcement effort in US history. The operation executed over 130 air tasking orders which assigned over 4,500 multinational sorties, including 2,800 combat sorties flown in the tactical area of responsibility, by 15 different aircraft. During this period of heightened international tensions and increased threat to Operation NORTHERN WATCH enforcement of the No-Fly Zone, the task force sustained the highest operations tempo in its 6-year history. The task force also quadrupled No-Fly Zone enforcement time within the tactical area of responsibility with only a 20 percent increase in resources, while maintaining its perfect safety record. Expanding coverage in the Area of Responsibility to provide sunrise to sunset presence, the task force forced Iraqi compliance with UN imposed sanctions. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of the Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 30th day of June 1998


Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff